

Appl. No.: 10/735,115
Reply to Office Action of: November 2, 2004

Remarks

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application, and stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakuragi et al. (US 6,466,437), and Claims 1, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boutros et al. (US 6,796,806).

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 is allowable because it includes a combination of features that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely "the housings having interchangeable mating surfaces" and "at least one of the electrical connectors has a visual indicator different from that of the other electrical connector." This feature is important because it allows an operator to correctly install a cable with connectors having interchangeable mating surfaces at opposing ends in a desired orientation. Correct orientation being necessary, for example, because an equalizer is provided at only one connector.

Sakuragi et al. do not provide a cable with housings at each end having interchangeable mating surfaces. To the contrary, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 and described beginning at Col. 4, line 61 and at Col. 6, line 1, two very different connectors are provided at the opposing end of the cable. At one end a PDC connector with 16 terminals is provided and at the opposite end a four pin USB connector is provided. Thus, the difference in size of the two housings in Sakuragi is not a visual indicator for distinguishing between two connectors with interchangeable mating surfaces, but rather to accommodate two very different connectors.

Boutros et al. fail to provide what Sakuragi et al. lack. In fact, Boutros et al. fail to even disclose a cable having two connectors, let alone suggest two connectors having interchangeable

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mating surfaces. Moreover, Boutros does not provide a visual indicator on one of the connectors. The Office action suggests that polarization keys are visual indicators. Applicants respectfully disagree. Polarization keys are understood in the art to be a physical feature that prevents installation of a connector in an incorrect orientation (hence polarization). Polarization keys are not visible during mating of a connector and, therefore, can not serve as a visual indicator for mating.

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 is allowable because it includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely "only one of the electrical connectors has an equalizer circuit." An equalizer circuit on only one of two connectors having interchangeable mating surfaces allows the cable to connect a tuner to a PDP with the equalizer located at the PDP connector to reduce phase jitter. As clearly pointed out in the specification, incorrect connector of the cable (i.e., connecting the connector with equalizer to the tuner) interferes with the equalizer function, and providing equalizers at both connectors unnecessarily increases cost.

Sakuragi et al. do not disclose or suggest an equalizer at all, but rather provide an interface circuit for converting information transmitted by a computer C into to information (in a format) readable by the portable telephone T. (see col. 5, lines 6-17) Moreover, as disclosed by Sakuragi et al., the interface circuit also converts information from the portable phone T into information readable by the computer C. Thus, Sakuragi et al. provide an interface circuit for communication between a phone and computer whose function is not affected by the location relative to the two connectors and is bi-directional.

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Boutros et al. are directed to a connector with an equalizer circuit 3 (as shown in Fig. 1). However, Boutros et al. are silent as to the configuration of the other end of a cable shown in Figures 8 and 9.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, and Applicants therefore contend that they are allowable for the reason that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103a as being unpatentable over Buotros, et al., in view of Kelly (US 3,689,866). As discussed previously, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 is allowable, and that since claim 2 depends from claim 1, that claim 2 is allowable for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 2 is allowable for the further reason that the cited references either alone or in any reasonable combination thereof fail to disclose or suggest that one of the connectors is provided with a visual indicator that is a color of a cover housing different from the other connector. The Office Action acknowledges that Boutros fails to disclose or suggest a color of a cover housing as a visual indicator of a connector having an equalizer. The office action, however, contends that Kelly provides a color of a cover housing as a visual indicator. Applicants respectfully contend that merely using a color as a visual indicator fails to provide the feature of claim 2, namely a color of a connector housing different from the other connector. The color coding of Kelly is for identifying size, voltage, amperage, project, owner, or other identification (Col. 4, lines 49-54). Thus, Kelly's color coding is directed to cable identification and not to identifying a particular connector (i.e., the one having an equalizer).

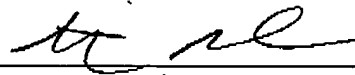
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Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8. Claim 8 is amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



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